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TO THE COPPORATION OF THE BOROUGH OF DROITWICH.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN;

I have the honour to present my Report upon the public health of the Borough during the year 1938.

This Report is arranged according to the instructions given in Circular 1728 which was issued by the Ministry of Health in October, 1938.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA.

Area.	1884 acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1938.	4662.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Book.	1385.
Rateable Value.	£33411.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£130.16.0.

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year :

Live Births.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate.	48.	28.	20.
Illegitimate.	1.	1.	0.
Still-Births.	NIL.	-	-

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.	10.73

Deaths.	Total.	Male.	Female.
	61.	33.	28.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.	13.08
Deaths from Puerperal causes.	Nil.
Deaths from Measles (all ages).	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).	7.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.	Total.	Male.	Female.
	4.	3.	1.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. (i). Public Health Officers of the Authority.

a. Medical. Only one Medical Officer of Health, namely, myself, is employed by the Authority, and my appointment is a part-time one.

b. Others. Mr.R.E.Hulse, Cert. R. San. I., is a whole-time officer and combines the duties of Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

(ii). There have been no developments or changes in the services provided under the following heads :

a. Laboratory facilities.

b. Ambulance facilities. These have been good, and have only been used for the transport of sickness and accident cases. All infectious cases were removed by special ambulances provided by the Isolation Hospital Authorities.

c. Nursing in the Home.

d. Treatment Centres and Clinics.

e. Hospitals.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i). Water.

The supply of water from the East Worcestershire Water-Works Company has been satisfactory, both in quality and quantity. All samples taken for analysis were satisfactory.

(ii). Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal have been satisfactory.

2. Rivers and Streams.

The River Salwarpe, a tributary of the River Severn, and the Birmingham-Worcester Canal pass through the town. No pollution of the River Salwarpe has occurred. The water of the Canal and the field ditches in the neighbourhood has been kept under constant supervision and preventive measures applied when any mosquito larvae have appeared.

3. (i). Closet Accomodation.

All privies and pail closets have now been converted except in the rural and undeveloped portions of the Borough.

(ii). Public Cleansing.

The methods in use for the collection and disposal of refuse have been satisfactory.

(iii). Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Details of this will be found in the attached Tabular Statement.

(iv). Shops.

Inspections have been carried out and any necessary alterations have been done.

(v). Smoke Abatement.

No action has been necessary in this matter.

(vi). Swimming Baths and Pools.

There is one privately owned Swimming Pool in the Borough. Samples taken for bacteriological examination during the year were all satisfactory.

(vii). Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action in connection with this matter was necessary during the year.

4. Schools.

The sanitary condition of the Schools is fair; the water supply good. The scholars were inspected regularly during the year and all cases of infectious disease, together with contacts, were excluded.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), ...	445
and number of inspections made for the purpose, ...	476

Number of dwellinghouses (included above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932, ... 58
and number of inspections made for the purpose ... 58

Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, ... 2

Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those - referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, ... 95

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers, ... 95

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

a. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, ... 2

Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

a. By owners, ... Nil
b. By Local Authority in default of owners, ... 2

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

a. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied, ... 19

b. Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
(i) By Owners, ... 19

Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936.

Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made, ... Nil

Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders, ... 14

Proceedings under Section 12 of Housing Act, 1936.

Nomproceedings were taken under this Section during the year. Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

a. (i). Number of dwellinghouses overcrowed at the end of the year, ... 60
(ii). Number of families dwelling therein, ... 64
(iii). Number of persons dwelling therein, ... 393

b. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year, ... Nil

c. (i). Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, ... 1
(ii). Number of persons concerned in such, ... 5

d. Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding, ... Nil

e. The erection of 70 houses to relieve overcrowding was commenced at the end of the year.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

a. Milk.

All premises used in connection with the production or sale of milk were inspected regularly by the Sanitary Inspector during the year, and all samples taken by him were satisfactory.

b. Meat.

All meat shops, stores and slaughter-houses in the Borough were inspected regularly throughout the year and found to be satisfactory.

During the year 75 lbs. meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

c. Adulteration.

No action was taken during the year.

d. Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

This work is carried out by the County Bacteriologist at the Shirehall, Worcester.

During the year a successful prosecution was made under Section 20 of the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890, in connection with a liquid egg business being carried on in the Borough, and 135,000 eggs were condemned and seized under a magistrate's order. As a result of this prosecution the business has now been closed.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	2.	2.	-
Diphtheria.	6.	6.	1.
Erysipelas.	1	-	-

An analysis of the cases notified under age groups showed :

Scarlet Fever occured in 2 cases at age 4.

Diphtheria occured in 6 cases at ages 5, 9, 12, 14, 27 and 31; the one death occuring at age 5.

Erysipelas occured in 1 case at age 75.

Details with regard to new cases of Tuberculosis are as follows :

Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
4.	3.	-	1.

No action was taken in 1938 under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, (affecting the employment of tuberculosis persons in the milk trade) or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, (affecting the compulsory removal to Hospital of cases of Tuberculosis).

My thanks are due to Mr.Arthur V.Holyoake, the Town Clerk; Mr.R.E.Hulse, the Borough Surveyor; and their Staffs for the help they have given me in compiling this Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1939.